

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 MC-02 /102 R

DRAFTED BY PM/MAS:TCOONY/RS

8/28/73:EXT. 28139

APPROVED BY PM/MAS - ROBERT T. GREY

PM/MC - MR. HUMBORG (SUBST)

EA/IMS - MR. HEAVNER

----- 084164

R 291341Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 171747

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS, BX, US

SUBJECT: MINIGUNS FOR BRUNEI

1. CROWN AGENTS ACTING ON BEHALF BRUNEI HAS REQUESTED OFFER UNDER FMS PROCEDURES FOR FOUR GE XM27-1 MINIGUNS. BRUNEI WAS PLACED ON FMS ELIGIBILITY LIST BY PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION SIGNED JANUARY 2, 1973.

2. MINIGUNS ARE MULTI-BARREL, ELECTRICALLY DRIVEN 7.62MM MACHINE GUNS WITH RATES OF FIRE UP TO 6,000 ROUNDS PER MINUTE. BRUNEI PLANS TO USE THEM ON ITS JETRANGER HELICOPTERS. WE WERE PREPARED TO APPROVE SALE OF THREE MINIGUNS TO BRUNEI THROUGH CROWN AGENTS IN 1970 BUT DEAL NOT COMPLETED BECAUSE BRUNEI NOT THEN ELIGIBLE FOR FMS PURCHASES. NOW, HOWEVER, WE SEE NO REASON FOR INTRODUCING MINIGUNS, WHICH ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY TO BE REGARDED AS A QUOTE DIRTY WEAPON UNQUOTE, INTO BRUNEI IN THE ABSENCE OF COMPELLING MILITARY REASONS.

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3. MOREOVER SINCE THE UNITED STATES IS THE ONLY SOURCE OF

THIS WEAPON AT PRESENT, WE MUST EXERCISE CAUTION IN AUTHORIZING ITS SALE ABROAD. OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND MILITARY SALES PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN RECEIVING INCREASING CONGRESSIONAL SCRUTINY AND THE PROVISION OF MINIGUNS TO BRUNEI COULD CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE INSENSITIVE BOTH TO CONG-

RESSIONAL CONCERNS AND TO OUR BASIC POLICY OF NOT TAKING THE LEAD IN INTRODUCING NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS INTO FOREIGN INVENTORIES IN THE ABSENCE OF A DEMONSTRATED NEED.

4. WE ALSO WONDER WHAT IMPACT THIS SALE MIGHT HAVE IN MALAYSIA IN LIGHT RECENT FLARE UP OF LIMBANG DISPUTE. THEREFORE, BEFORE MAKING DECISION ON CASE, WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY REACTION CONSIDERING ALL FACTORS OUTLINED ABOVE.
ROGERS

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